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A Short and Impartial Account of the wretched Life, and fatal Death of James Lawder who kill'd his Father.

As the Example of Good Men is profitable for Imitation, the History of bad Men may be no less useful for Caution; a very singular Instance of one of the wickedest of Wretches toll

This *James Lawder*, Son to *Daniel Lawder* a Farmer in *Brughtown*, between *Edinburgh* and *Leith*, was in his younger years much Indulged by his Parents, which may be a Warning to all who have Children to correct them in due season and to keep them under a just and due Obedience.

As he encreased in years so did he in Vice, having in his Childhood shewed all the Characts of a froward Youth, such as cursing, swearing, profaning the Lords day, contempt and disobedience of Parents, he afterward by more Masquelin, (or rather brutish) Vices, such as drunkenness, and other dissolute practices shewed himself a Son of Beliel

However, he was still much indulged by his parents, especially his Mother, who furnished him with Money, which he never failed to spend riotously, and in requital of her kindness, he became so extremely perverse. that being much grieved, she contracted sickness and died; so that he may virtually be said to be the Cause of her death.

His Father to Restrain him from the Vices of an Idle Life, and that he might be honestly provided, put him to an Apprentiship with a Sadler in *Edinburgh*, but he did not bide by it, however his Father set him up afterward as a Brewer, but with the like ill Success. At length having spent all, he came to a House belonging to his Father, spending his time Idley there being Aliamented by his Father, and perceiving he was resolved to Marry which he thought would Retrink his Aliament threatned to Kill him which he afterward Executed.

It is to be taken notice of, that this Wretch usually kept a Bagonet and a Sword with which he often threatened to Kill his Wife upon any pretended provocation, to which he began so early, than when he was about a week Married he made the Doors fast, laid his Bagonet Drawn upon his Bolster, and Sword by the Bed side, all Night, none being in the House but himself and VVife.

At an other time when she was but 10 or 12 days lain in, he made fast the Doors, drew his Sword and threatened to Kill her (a Servant Maids being with them in the House) uttering most Dreadful Oaths, Damn him if he cared tho he should hing between *Leith* and *Edinburgh* for it. The like Expressions he used frequently when he threatened other People, and upon the Day of August 1706 he most inhumanly executed his threatning upon his Father. stobing him with his Baginot near the Throat making a very large and deep Wound, whereof he Instantly Died, and the VVretch made his Escape.

But by Divine Providence which seldom suffers such Monsterous VVickedness to pass unpunished, he had not power to go away, for having Lurked about for some time, he went to *Aberdain* to an Uncle by the Mother's side, he gave out to him that being in Debt he came thither for shelter for a short time, and having abode there till his Uncles VVife was weary of him, he came back to *Dundee* where he Listed himself with Seriant *Murray* to go a Recruit to *Flanders*, he abode with him three VVeeks, and the Seriant having occasion to come to *Edinburgh* brought him along tho some what against his mind, he making difficulties to come hither because of Debt, but the Seriant perswaded him there was no ground of fear, &c hoping to lurk Privately till the Recruits should go away, he came, and the Seriant having assigned him a quarter in a House where he was known, he pretended he was in Debt to the master of the Family, and thereupon obtained another Quarter at the head of the *Canongate*, where he resolved to ly in Bed all Day, but a Woman who knew him coming to that House, and seeing him, told what he was, whereupon he was instantly Seized, and upon Trial he was found Guilty, and Condemned to have his Right Hand Cut off, to be Hanged till dead, and afterward Hung in Chains between *Edinburgh* and *Leith*, which was accordingly executed the 28 of March 1707. This from the Testimony of some particularly acquainted with him, and most of it Confess'd by himself.